

## CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2  
SECTION: 30.11  
TITLE: **PHOTODYNAMIC THERAPY AND PHOTOCHEMOTHERAPY (PUVA)**

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AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(d)(3)(vi)

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### I. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

96567-96571, 96900, 96910-96913

### II. DESCRIPTION

A. Photodynamic therapy is the use of ultraviolet light alone for the treatment of dermatological disorders.

B. Photochemotherapy is the use of ultraviolet light together with a drug (either systemic or topical) for the treatment of dermatological disorders. This treatment may also be called PUVA therapy or Goeckerman treatment.

### III. POLICY

A. Photodynamic therapy and photochemotherapy are considered eligible for coverage when used to treat severe disabling dermatological conditions which are resistant to, or not adequately responsive to other forms of conservative therapy (e.g., topical corticosteroid, coal/tar preparations). One office visit per month billed in conjunction with PUVA treatment may be allowed. More frequent office visits billed in conjunction with PUVA treatment should be denied unless supporting medical documentation justifies medical necessity.

B. Home UVB therapy is appropriate when prescribed by a physician who will regularly supervise and monitor the patient's progress with the therapy. A patient selected for home therapy will be, in the judgment of the physician, motivated, reliable, and able to understand the use and risks of the therapy and will agree to return at intervals for re-evaluation by the physician. Home therapy is usually prescribed for a patient who has difficulty attending on-site therapy because of distance or physical limitations and/or can understand the use and risks of home therapy.

C. Home photodynamic therapy for neonatal jaundice is covered for a term infant whose elevated bilirubin is not due to any pathologic hepatic or RH incompatibility disorder (refer to "LIMITATIONS"). Photodynamic therapy administered at home for infants with physiologic jaundice generally includes use of the following equipment: a fluorescent photodynamic therapy lamp, eye shields, rectal thermometer, and a room thermometer.

#### IV. LIMITATIONS

Initiation of photodynamic therapy for neonatal jaundice is limited to infants with the following characteristics:

1. Term infant (36 weeks and beyond), older than 24 hours, otherwise healthy.
2. Pathologic hyperbilirubinemia.
3. Total and direct-reacting bilirubin concentration without an elevation in direct reacting bilirubin.
4. Maternal and infant blood typing.

**\*END OF POLICY\***